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## 1 in 3 fears immigrants influence U.S. elections: AP-NORC poll

**PHOENIX (AP)** — With anti-immigrant rhetoric bubbling over in the leadup to this year's critical midterm elections, about 1 in 3 U.S. adults believes an effort is underway to replace U.S.-born Americans with immigrants for electoral gains. About 3 in 10 also worry that more immigration is causing U.S.-born Americans to lose their economic, political and cultural influence, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to fear a loss of influence because of immigration, 36% to 27%. Those views mirror swelling anti-immigrant sentiment espoused on social media and cable TV, with conservative commentators like Tucker Carlson exploiting fears that new arrivals could undermine the native-born population.

Continued on next page



A migrant waits of the Mexican side of the border after United States Customs and Border Protection officers detained a couple of migrants crossing the US-Mexico border on the beach, in Tijuana, Mexico, Jan. 26, 2022.

Associated Press

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**Continued from Front**

In their most extreme manifestation, those increasingly public views in the U.S. and Europe tap into a decades-old conspiracy theory known as the "great replacement," a false claim that native-born populations are being overrun by nonwhite immigrants who are eroding, and eventually will erase, their culture and values. The once-taboo term became the mantra of one losing conservative candidate in the recent French presidential election.

"I very much believe that the Democrats — from Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi, all the way down — want to get the illegal immigrants in here and give them voting rights immediately," said Sally Gansz, 80. Actually, only U.S. citizens can vote in state and federal elections, and attaining citizenship typically takes years.

A white Republican, Gansz has lived her whole life in Trinidad, Colorado, where about half of the population of 8,300 identifies as Hispanic, most with roots going back centuries to the region's Spanish settlers.

"Isn't it obvious that I watch Fox?" quipped Gansz, who said she watches the conservative channel almost daily, including the top-rated Fox News Channel program "Tucker Carlson Tonight," a major proponent of those ideas.

"Demographic change is the key to the Democratic Party's political ambitions," Carlson said on the show last year. "In order to win and maintain power, Democrats plan to change the population of the country." Those views aren't held by a majority of Americans — in fact, two-thirds feel the country's diverse population makes the U.S. stronger, and far more favor than oppose a path to legal status for immigrants brought into the U.S. ille-



**Pictured in promotional posters outside Fox News studios at News Corporation headquarters in New York on Saturday, July 31, 2021, are hosts Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Maria Bartiromo, Stuart Varney, Neil Cavuto and Charles Payne.**

**Associated Press**

gally as children. But the deep anxieties expressed by some Americans help explain how the issue energizes those opposed to immigration.

"I don't feel like immigration really affects me or that it undermines American values," said Daniel Valdes, 43, a registered Democrat who works in finance for an aeronautical firm on Florida's Space Coast. "I'm pretty indifferent about it all."

Valdes' maternal grandparents came to the U.S. from Mexico, and he said he has "tons" of relatives in the border city of El Paso, Texas. He has Puerto Rican roots on his father's side.

While Republicans worry more than Democrats about immigration, the most intense anxiety was among people with the greatest tendency for conspiratorial thinking. That's

defined as those most likely to agree with a series of statements, like much of people's lives is "being controlled by plots hatched in secret places" and "big events like wars, recessions, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us."

In all, 17% in the poll believe both that native-born Americans are losing influence because of the growing population of immigrants and that a group of people in the country is trying to replace native-born Americans with immigrants who agree with their political views. That number rises to 42% among the quarter of Americans most likely to embrace other conspiracy theories.

Alex Hoxeng, 37, a white Republican from Midland,

Texas, said he found those most extreme versions of the immigration conspiracies "a bit far-fetched" but does believe immigration could lessen the influence of U.S.-born Americans.

"I feel like if we are flooded with immigrants coming illegally, it can dilute our culture," Hoxeng said.

Teresa Covarrubias, 62, rejects the idea that immigrants are undermining the values or culture of U.S.-born Americans or that they are being brought in to shore up the Democratic voter base. She is registered to vote but is not aligned with any party.

"Most of the immigrants I have seen have a good work ethic, they pay taxes and have a strong sense of family," said Covarrubias, a second grade teacher in Los Angeles whose four grandparents came to the U.S. from Mexico. "They help our country."

Republican leaders, including border governors Doug Ducey of Arizona and Greg Abbott of Texas — who is running for reelection this year — have increasingly decried what they call an "invasion," with conservative politicians traveling to

the U.S.-Mexico border to pose for photos alongside former President Donald Trump's border wall.

Vulnerable Democratic senators up for election this year in Arizona, Georgia, New Hampshire and Nevada have joined many Republicans in calling on the Biden administration to wait on lifting the coronavirus-era public health rule known as Title 42 that denies migrants a chance to seek asylum. They fear it could draw more immigrants to the border than officials can handle.

U.S. authorities stopped migrants more than 221,000 times at the Mexican border in March, a 22-year high, creating a fraught political landscape for Democrats as the Biden administration prepares to lift Title 42 authority May 23. The pandemic powers have been used to expel migrants more than 1.8 million times since it was invoked in March 2020 on the grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Newly arrived immigrants are barred from voting in federal elections because they aren't citizens, and gaining citizenship is an arduous process that can take a decade or more — if they are successful. In most cases, they must first obtain permanent residency, then wait five more years before they can apply for citizenship. Investigations have failed to turn up evidence of widespread voting by people who aren't eligible, including by non-citizens. For example, a Georgia audit of its voter rolls completed this year found fewer than 2,000 instances of non-citizens attempting to register and vote over the last 25 years, none of which succeeded.

Blake Masters, a candidate for Senate in Arizona, is among the Republicans running for office this year who have played into anxieties about a changing population.

"What the left really wants to do is change the demographics of this country," he said in a video recorded in October. "They want to do that so they can consolidate power so they can never lose another election." □



## Biden announces program offering discounted internet service

By AAMER MADHANI and WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden announced Monday that 20 internet companies have agreed to provide discounted service to people with low incomes, a program that could effectively make tens of millions of households eligible for free service through an already existing federal subsidy.

"High speed internet is not a luxury any longer. It's a necessity," Biden said at a sun-drenched rose garden event with representatives from participating companies, as well as members of Congress.

The \$1 trillion infrastructure package passed by Congress last year included \$14.2 billion funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides \$30 monthly subsidies (\$75 in tribal areas) on internet service for millions of lower-income households.

With the new commitment from the internet providers, some 48 million households will be eligible for \$30 monthly plans for 100 megabits per second, or higher speed, service — making internet service



Vice President Kamala Harris, right, listens as President Joe Biden speaks at an event on lowering the cost of high-speed internet in the Rose Garden of the White House, Monday, May 9, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

fully paid for with government assistance if they sign up with one of the providers participating in the program.

Biden noted that families of four earning about \$55,000 annually — or those including someone eligible for Medicaid — will get a \$30 monthly credit, meaning about 40 percent of Americans will qualify.

"This is a case where big

business stepped up. We're trying to get others to do the same thing," Biden told the crowd to sustained applause. "It's going to change peoples' lives." Advocates were cautiously optimistic.

"It might be a game-changer," said Marty Newell, coordinator for Rural Broadband Policy at the Center for Rural Strategies in Whitesburg, Kentucky,

where he said slow internet has plagued residents and businesses alike.

Newell said he wanted to see more about what the program will mean going forward, but that his main question is — given that increased broadband access has generally been a bipartisan issue in Congress — "What took them so long" Biden, during his White House run and the push for

the infrastructure bill, made expanding high-speed internet access in rural and low-income areas a priority. He has repeatedly spoken out about low-income families that struggled finding reliable Wi-Fi, so their children could take part in remote schooling and complete homework assignments early in the coronavirus pandemic, including, he said Monday, families driving to McDonald's parking lots to access wireless internet inside the restaurant.

The 20 internet companies that have agreed to lower their rates for eligible consumers provide service in areas where 80% of the U.S. population, including 50% of the rural population, live, the president said. Participating companies that offer service on tribal lands are providing \$75 rates in those areas, the equivalent of the federal government subsidy in those areas.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris also met Monday with telecom executives, members of Congress and others to spotlight the effort to improve access to high-speed internet for low-income households. □

## U.S. sanctions alleged IS child trafficking financiers

By FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. announced Monday that it is sanctioning five people accused of fundraising for the Islamic State group and using the funds to help traffic children to serve as fighters for the organization.

U.S. Treasury says the actors are pivotal to helping extremists travel to Syria and other regions where IS operates.

Dwi Dahlia Susanti and her accomplices are accused of facilitating money transfers from Indonesia, Turkey, and Syria, where the Treasury Department says Susanti used the funds to help "smuggle teenage children out of the camps to the desert, where they were received by (IS) foreign fight-

ers, likely as child recruits" for IS.

The sanctions, imposed by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, block any property or other assets the individuals have in the U.S. and those who engage in business with the sanctioned people could receive secondary sanctions.

The announcement comes just two days ahead of a meeting of foreign ministers from the global anti-IS coalition that is happening in Morocco on Wednesday. Secretary of State Antony Blinken had to cancel his plan to attend because he tested positive for COVID-19, but the U.S. will be represented by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, who is the third highest-ranking

U.S. diplomat. Treasury says several of the individuals allegedly conducted a large portion of transfers through Syria-based refugee camps by collecting funds in Indonesia and Turkey, where some the funds were used to pay for "smuggling children out of the camps and delivering them to (IS) foreign fighters as potential recruits," according to Treasury.

Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson said Treasury intends to "expose and disrupt an international facilitation network that has supported (IS) recruitment, including the recruitment of vulnerable children in Syria."

Of the roughly 40,000 foreign IS members identified in Iraq and Syria, 12 per-



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks during a news conference at the Treasury Department in Washington, Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Associated Press

cent were children under the age of 18, according to a 2019 United Nations report.

"The United States, as part of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, is committed to denying (IS) the ability

to raise and move funds across multiple jurisdictions," Nelson said in a news release. The U.S. government refers to the group as ISIS, which stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. □

# Accuser testifies in Mario Batali sexual misconduct trial

By **PHILIP MARCELO**  
Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Mario Batali's sexual misconduct trial opened Monday in a Boston court with his accuser recounting how she'd been "shocked, surprised and alarmed" as the celebrity chef aggressively kissed and groped her while taking selfies at a restaurant in 2017.

The 32-year-old Boston-area software company worker said she felt confused and powerless to do anything to stop Batali as he grabbed her "in a way that I have never been touched before."

"It was all happening so quickly and it was happening essentially the whole time," the woman testified in Boston Municipal Court. "Just a lot of touching."

She said she felt embarrassed until she saw other women step forward to share similar encounters with Batali.

"This happened to me and this is my life," the woman said. "I want to be able to take control of what happened, come forward, say my piece and have everyone be accountable for their actions."

But Batali's lawyer, Anthony Fuller, sought to discredit her, arguing that the assault never happened.

He said the accuser has a financial incentive to lie as she's seeking more than \$50,000 in damages from Batali in a separate civil



Celebrity chef Mario Batali listens at Boston Municipal Court on the first day of his pandemic-delayed trial, Monday, May 9, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

lawsuit pending in Suffolk County Superior Court in Boston.

"She's not being truthful," Fuller said. "This is being fabricated for money and for fun."

During cross examination, he produced financial statements showing the woman ate at Eataty, the Italian marketplace Batali once owned, weeks after the encounter and continued to patronize the Boston bar where the alleged assault took place.

"You go to the restaurant of the guy who you claimed brutally assaulted you?" he said. "That doesn't make sense."

The woman said she didn't

recall going to Eataty and maintained she isn't speaking out for financial gain. She also strongly pushed back at Fuller for questioning why none of the many photos taken with Batali that night showed the alleged assault.

The woman said the photos were all taken relatively close up and didn't show how Batali, who she said was visibly drunk, was grabbing her private areas, touching her face and even sticking his tongue in her ear. She said he also invited her up to his hotel room afterward, which she declined.

"I have never been touched before like that,"

the woman said. "Squeezing my vagina to pull me closer to him, as if that's a normal way to grab someone."

But Fuller argued the accuser isn't a credible witness. He honed in on the woman recently admitting to charges of violating a judge's instructions while serving on the jury in an unrelated criminal trial in 2018. The woman, who had claimed she was clairvoyant in a jury selection questionnaire, maintained in court Monday she can predict major events before they happen "to a certain extent."

Monday's trial opened after Batali — in a surprise

move — waived his right to a jury trial and opted instead to have a judge decide his fate.

Batali, who pleaded not guilty to indecent assault and battery in 2019, could face up to 2 1/2 years in jail and be required to register as a sex offender if convicted.

Batali is among a number of high-profile men who have faced a public reckoning during the #MeToo social movement against sexual abuse and harassment in recent years.

The 61-year-old was once a Food Network fixture on shows like "Molto Mario" and "Iron Chef America." But the ponytail-and-orange Croc-wearing personality's high-flying career crumbled amid sexual misconduct allegations.

Four women accused him of inappropriate touching in 2017, after which he stepped down from day-to-day operations at his restaurant empire and left the since-discontinued ABC cooking show "The Chew." Batali has offered an apology, acknowledging the allegations "match up" with ways he has acted.

"I have made many mistakes and I am so very sorry that I have disappointed my friends, my family, my fans and my team," he said in an email newsletter at the time. "My behavior was wrong and there are no excuses. I take full responsibility." □



This April 25, 2022 photo provided by the Southern Nevada Water Authority shows the top of Lake Mead drinking water Intake No. 1 above the surface level of the Colorado River reservoir behind Hoover Dam.

Associated Press

## More human remains in Lake Mead found amid water level drop

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — A week after a decades-old body was found in receding Lake Mead, authorities in Las Vegas are trying to identify a second set of newly discovered human remains.

Two sisters from the Las Vegas suburb of Henderson were paddle boarding on the drought-stricken Colorado River reservoir when they spotted bones Saturday in the Callville Bay area of the lake.

Lindsey Melvin told KLAS-TV that they thought at first it

was a bighorn sheep, but saw what appeared to be a human jaw and called park rangers. The National Park Service confirmed in a statement that the bones found were human.

Investigators are not treating the case as a homicide, Las Vegas police said. The remains are currently with the Clark County Coroner's Office.

The discovery came after a body in a barrel was found May 1 along newly exposed shoreline of the lake

formed by Hoover Dam between Nevada and Arizona.

In that case, police said the body was a man who had been shot, probably between the mid-1970s and the early 1980s because he was wearing shoes manufactured during that period.

Drought has dropped the Lake Mead water level so much that Las Vegas' uppermost water intake became visible two weeks ago. □

# Unionist party refuses to form new N Ireland government

**LONDON (AP)** — Northern Ireland's largest unionist party, which lost last week's local elections, refused Monday to return to a power-sharing government saying it will not do so until its demands over post-Brexit customs arrangements are met.

Democratic Unionist Party leader Jeffrey Donaldson was among political leaders that met with Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis, who urged them to come together to resurrect a paralyzed Northern Irish government. The talks came after nationalist party Sinn Fein, which seeks union with Ireland, scored a historic victory in last week's Northern Ireland Assembly elections. Sinn Fein overtook the rival DUP to become the first Irish nationalist party to top the voting in Northern Ireland's history.

It was a milestone for a party long associated with the paramilitary Irish Republican Army, which sought to use violence to take Northern Ireland out of U.K. rule. But while Sinn Fein now has the right to the position of Northern Ireland's first minister, a functioning Executive cannot be formed



**Democratic Unionist Party leader Jeffrey Donaldson pauses as he speaks to the media at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, Monday, May 9, 2022.**

unless the DUP, as the largest unionist party, agrees to take the role of deputy minister under the region's mandatory power-sharing rules. Donaldson said Monday he made clear to Lewis that the DUP will not nominate ministers to the Executive unless the U.K. government takes "decisive action" on new Brexit customs rules known as the Northern Ireland Protocol. "They gave a firm commitment to protect our place

in the U.K. internal market. They have not done so, they have failed over the last two-and-a-half years to honor that commitment," Donaldson said.

"We look to what the government is now going to say, but more fundamentally important is what the government is going to do," he added.

The unionists are strongly opposed to new customs and border checks on some goods entering

Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K. that were introduced after Britain's exit from the European Union.

The special arrangement was meant to prevent the return of a hard land border with the Republic of Ireland. Keeping that border open to the free flow of people and goods is a key pillar of the Northern Ireland peace process that ended decades of bloody conflict.

But unionists argue that the

new checks have created a barrier between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K. that undermines their British identity, and want them scrapped.

Northern Ireland has been without a functioning government since February when the DUP's leader at the time, Paul Givan, quit as first minister in protest over the post-Brexit rules.

Britain's Conservative government is trying to get the EU to agree to major changes, but negotiations have reached an impasse. Speaking after Monday's meetings with party leaders, Lewis said London will "take nothing off the table" in its negotiations with the EU.

"The U.K. government's overriding priority remains the preservation of peace and stability in Northern Ireland," he said. "The current situation with the protocol is fundamentally undermining the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and creating an unacceptable situation in Northern Ireland." Sinn Fein's vice-president, Michelle O'Neill, stressed that she wanted to serve as a "first minister for all" and work in partnership with other parties. □

Associated Press

# Australia aware of China plans for Solomon Islands wharves

By **ROD McGUIRK**

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**

— Australia's prime minister said on Monday he was aware of China's ambitions in the southwest Pacific after a newspaper reported plans by Beijing to build wharves, shipyards and underwater cables in the Solomon Islands.

The Australian newspaper published a leaked four-page draft maritime cooperation agreement between China and the Solomon Islands dated this year.

That follows the recent confirmation by China and the Pacific island nation that they have signed a separate security agreement that the United States and its allies fear could lead to a Chinese naval base less than 2,000 kilometers (1,200

miles) from the Australian coast.

Security experts suspect that maritime infrastructure built under the latest draft memorandum of understanding would be used by the Chinese military.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his government was not surprised by the reported draft agreement to develop "port wharves, submarine optical cable construction, shipbuilding and ship repair."

"We're very aware of what the Chinese government's ambitions are in the Pacific, whether it be in relation to facilities such as that or naval bases or other presence of their military in the Pacific," Morrison told reporters.

"I am very concerned, as many other Pacific leaders are, about the interference

and intrusion of the Chinese government into these types of arrangements and what that can mean for the peace, stability and security of the southwest Pacific," Morrison added.

Solomon Islands opposition lawmaker Peter Kenilorea Jr. said his father, Peter Kenilorea, the independent country's first prime minister from 1978 until 1981, would be "upset" by current Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare's use of China to "leverage" more from other countries.

"The Solomon Islands is never going to become part of that kind of diplomacy," Kenilorea told Australia's Ten Network television.

"We have cordial relations with our friends. They know our needs and we work through them rather than



**Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison speaks at a press conference after visiting a steel fabrication company in Townsville, Tuesday, April 26, 2022.**

Associated Press

using each other as leverage against each other," he added.

The United States has said it would take unspecified action against the Solomon Islands should the security agreement with China

pose a threat to U.S. or allied interests.

Australia has a security pact with the Solomon Islands and sent a peacekeeping police force to the capital, Honiara, in November after civil unrest. □

# Sri Lankan prime minister resigns after weeks of protests

By KRISHAN FRANCIS, BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI and KRUTIKA PATHI

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

— Sri Lanka's prime minister resigned Monday following weeks of protests demanding that he and his brother, the country's president, step down for dragging the nation into its worst economic crisis in decades.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said on Twitter that he submitted his resignation to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a move that followed a violent attack by government supporters on the protesters, prompting authorities to deploy armed troops in the capital, Colombo.

Four people, including a ruling party lawmaker, died in Monday's violence, police spokesman Nihal Thaldudwa told the Associated Press. President Rajapaksa imposed a nationwide curfew Monday evening lasting until Wednesday morning.

For more than a month, protests have spread across the country, drawing people across ethnicities, religions and class. For the first time middle-class Sri Lankans also took to the streets in large numbers, marking a dramatic revolt by many former Rajapaksa supporters, some of whom have spent weeks protesting outside the president's office.

The protests underscored a dramatic fall from favor of the Rajapaksas, Sri Lanka's most powerful political dynasty for decades. The brothers were once hailed as heroes by many of the island's Buddhist-Sinhalese majority for ending the country's 30-year civil war, and despite accusations of war atrocities, were firmly



An injured Sri Lankan Buddhist monk is being carried away who among many other anti-government protesters were injured after attacked by government supporters outside prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's residence in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, May 9, 2022.

Associated Press

entrenched at the top of Sri Lankan politics until now.

The prime minister's resignation comes as the country's economy has swiftly unraveled in recent weeks. Imports of everything from milk to fuel have plunged, spawning dire food shortages and rolling power cuts. People have been forced to stand in lines for hours to buy essentials. Doctors have warned of crippling shortages of life-saving drugs in hospitals, and the government has suspended payments on \$7 billion in foreign debt due this year alone.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa initially blamed Sri Lanka's economic woes on global factors like the pandemic battering its tourism industry and the Russia-Ukraine conflict pushing up global oil prices. But both he and his brother have since admitted to mistakes that exacerbated the crisis, including conceding they should have sought an International Monetary Fund bailout sooner.

Sri Lanka has been holding talks with the IMF to set up a rescue plan but its progress depends on negotiations on debt restructuring with creditors. Any long-term plan would take at least six months to get underway.

Sri Lanka was in financial trouble even before the Ukraine war drove up food

and oil prices and made things worse.

The Sri Lankan government has been running big budget deficits after cutting taxes in 2019 and struggling to collect taxes during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also has piled up massive foreign debt much of it owed to China and has scant foreign exchange reserves to pay for imports and to defend its embattled currency, the rupee.

Sri Lanka is at the top of a list compiled by Liliana Rojas-Suarez of the Center for Global Development that ranks the countries most exposed to financial shocks. Those most vulnerable rely on commodity imports and have low foreign exchange reserves compared to what they owe other countries. Monday's violence triggered widespread anger, with people singling out Rajapaksa supporters and attacking them in many parts of the country.

Ruling party lawmaker Amaraakeerthi Athukorale and his bodyguard were killed in Nittambuwa, some 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Colombo after the car they were traveling in was intercepted by an angry crowd, the police spokesman said. Athukorale or his bodyguard had fired gunshots at the protesters, who chased them and trapped them inside a building where their

badly beaten bodies were recovered by police several hours later, the spokesman said.

Three people were hospitalized with gunshot wounds from the shots fired from the lawmaker's vehicle, he said.

Separately, in the Rajapaksas' hometown of Weeraketiya, a crowd that tried to set fire to a local politician's home was fired upon killing two protesters, he said.

Protesters tried several times to break into the prime minister's official residence Monday night forcing police to fire tear gas. Homes of government ministers and politicians supporting the Rajapaksas were also attacked and some set on fire. The memorial for the brothers' parents was vandalized.

Jayadeva Uyangoda, a political scientist in Colombo, said the prime minister's resignation marked a new chapter in the country's political crisis. "The prime minister had to resign in disgrace after his supporters unleashed such violence," he said.

He added that it would be difficult for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to maintain credibility after Monday's violence.

But the president has so far refused to resign and Parliament must go through a difficult process if it attempts

to oust him. The resignation of the prime minister meant the entire Cabinet was dissolved.

Earlier on Monday, the prime minister's supporters attacked protesters who had been demonstrating outside the prime minister's official residence for weeks, hitting them with wooden and iron poles. They then marched to the president's office, where they attacked protesters there and set their camps on fire. Police fired tear gas and a water cannon, but not forcefully enough to control the mob. The attack occurred despite a state of emergency declared by the president Friday that gave him wide powers for riot control.

Hundreds of armed soldiers were deployed in the capital, as the protesters accused police of not preventing the attack, despite using tear gas and water cannons on protesters on Friday.

"Police did not protect us, therefore we have taken it into our own hands," said Druvi Jinasena, who was helping block roads to protect the protest site.

An official at the main hospital in Colombo said 173 people were treated, most for minor injuries, though 15 were seriously injured. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to speak to the media.

The country's foreign reserves have plummeted below \$50 million and it owes nearly \$25 billion in foreign debt for payment by 2026. Its total foreign debt is \$51 billion.

Meanwhile, popular anger at the Rajapaksa clan has only grown, ramping up pressure on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to quit too. "There has been sustained pressure for the last several weeks for the president to resign but he hasn't paid much attention to that," said Bhavani Fonseka, a senior researcher at the Colombo-based Center for Policy Alternatives.

"People are furious – and that anger is not going away anytime soon." □



# Embattled Israeli leader vows to keep government afloat

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel's embattled prime minister on Monday vowed to continue to lead the country as his shaky government limped into the opening of parliament's summer session on the verge of collapse.

Less than a year after taking office, Naftali Bennett has lost his parliamentary majority, his own party is crumbling and a key governing partner has suspended cooperation with the coalition. That has set the stage for a possible attempt by the opposition, led by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to topple the government later this week.

While Bennett appears to be poised to fend off this immediate challenge, his longer-term prospects are uncertain at a time when the government is deeply divided over major issues, Israel is facing an ongoing wave of stabbings and shootings by lone-wolf Palestinian attackers and a confrontation with the United States over West Bank settlement construction is looming.

Boaz Toporovsky, the acting coalition chairman, acknowledged the coalition is in the midst of a "serious crisis" but said he was optimistic it would survive. "Everyone understands that we're at a crossroads that



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett pauses during the opening of the summer session of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem, Monday, May 9, 2022.

Associated Press

can bring about, heaven forbid, elections in Israel," he told the Israeli public broadcaster Kan early Monday.

The new government made history when it took office last June, ending prolonged deadlock in which the country went through four rounds of inconclusive elections in just two years. Racing to head off what would have been another election, Bennett cobbled together a diverse coalition of eight parties with little in common beyond their shared animosity toward Netanyahu.

The new coalition, including hard-line religious na-

tionalists that oppose Palestinian statehood, dovish left-wingers and for the first time in an Israeli coalition, an Islamist Arab party, agreed to sideline the country's most divisive issues and focus on areas of broad consensus.

The government has managed to pass a budget, navigate the coronavirus pandemic and strengthen relations with both the Biden administration and Israel's Arab allies. Bennett also has emerged as a surprising mediator in the Ukraine-Russia war, regularly speaking to the leaders of both countries.

Although Bennett, who

leads a small religious-nationalist party, has ruled out peace talks with the Palestinians, he has tried to reduce tensions by taking steps to improve living conditions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. This cautious approach has repeatedly been tested. One member of Bennett's Yamina party defected when the government took office, accusing him of abandoning their nationalist ideology. A second member followed suit last month, leaving the coalition and opposition equally divided in the 120-seat parliament.

Weeks of Israeli-Palestinian

violence, much of it fueled by tensions and fighting at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, prompted Mansour Abbas, leader of the Islamist Arab Ra'am faction in the coalition, to suspend cooperation. Abbas has not said whether he will resume cooperation or join the opposition in attempts to topple the coalition this week.

"We're in a not so simple crisis with Ra'am," Toporovsky said, adding that he understood the Islamist party's disappointment in the slow pace of effecting change for Israel's Arab citizens.

A public opinion survey in April by the Israel Democracy Institute found that only 30% of respondents believed the government was likely to survive the year, down from 49% in February. The think tank polled 751 Israeli Jews and Arabs, and reported a margin of error of 3.65 percentage points. Netanyahu is weighing whether to introduce a motion this week to dissolve parliament and trigger new elections. Such a move is risky. It would require at least one of the remaining members of the coalition to join him, and there is no guarantee that will happen. If he fails, he would not be able to introduce a similar motion for the next six months as an ongoing corruption trial against Netanyahu moves ahead. □

# Official: 8 Turkish citizens kidnapped from bus in Haiti

By EVENS SANON

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Eight Turkish citizens have been kidnapped in Haiti's capital, an official told The Associated Press on Monday, apparently the latest in a string of high-profile kidnappings by powerful gangs.

Hugues Josue, Turkey's honorary consul in Haiti, said the group had boarded a bus in the neighboring Dominican Republic and were kidnapped late Sunday afternoon in the Croix-des-Bouquets neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. Those kidnapped were five men and three women, he said.

Josue said he did not have any details on a potential ransom request, and no additional information was immediately available.

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters that a "crisis desk" had been set up in Haiti and that Turkey was following the issue closely.

"They are thought to have been kidnapped for ransom," Cavusoglu said. "There is negative concern regarding the state of their health at the moment."

Croix-des-Bouquets is controlled by the 400 Mawozo gang, which kidnapped 17 members of a U.S.-based

missionary group in the same area last October. The gang demanded \$1 million in ransom and held most of them until December.

A diplomat from the Dominican Republic was kidnapped in the same neighborhood earlier this month and later freed.

Last week, Haiti's National Police announced that one of the top leaders of the 400 Mawozo gang, Germaine Joly, was extradited to the U.S. He faces charges involving kidnapping, smuggling and import of weapons of war.

The violence and insecurity



Demonstrators march demanding peace and security in La Plaine neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, May 6, 2022.

Associated Press

has prompted Haitians to organize protests in recent

weeks to demand safer neighborhoods. □

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## Allure of the Seas received a warm welcome and celebrated the milestone of its arrival

Oranjestad - During the first visit of Allure of the Seas on Aruba, Ronella Croes, CEO of A.T.A, along with the Minister of Tourism, Dangui Oduber, presented the captain of the cruise ship a framed photo of a traditional Aruban home. This took place during the ceremony that is a part of every inaugural visit of a cruise ship.

Some members of the A.T.A team also formed a part of the group that was able to board the cruise ship to attend this ceremony, and after received a tour of the ship. As the office for tourism, it was a moment of pride and joy to be able to see this inaugural arrival and to form a part of it.

A.T.A wants to thank and congratulate the community of Aruba for this milestone, as well as the Ministry of Tourism, Aruba Ports, Authority, SEL Maduro & Sons as an agent

for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and the department of Cruise Ship Tourism at A.T.A.

Since 2011 the office of tourism took over the responsibilities in regards to cruise ships, which used to fall under Aruba Cruise Authority. Along with the key associates, including the Ministry of Tourism, APA, A.T.A invests in various key aspects for the development of cruise ship tourism. Part of the team is in charge of the service to clients when the tourist is in Aruba. Aside from this, attraction and maintenance of the cruise associates is also one of the services provided. They work with different authorities in order to optimize the experience for the visitor the moment they are on our Island.

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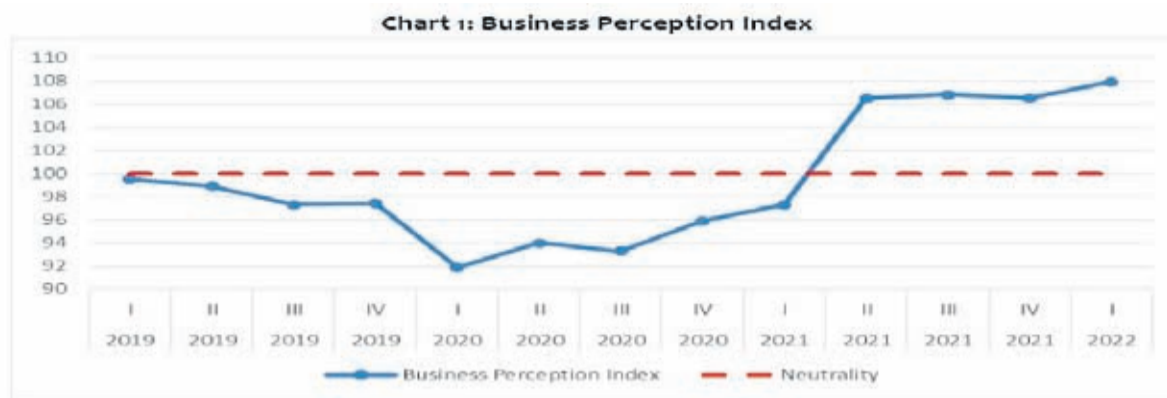
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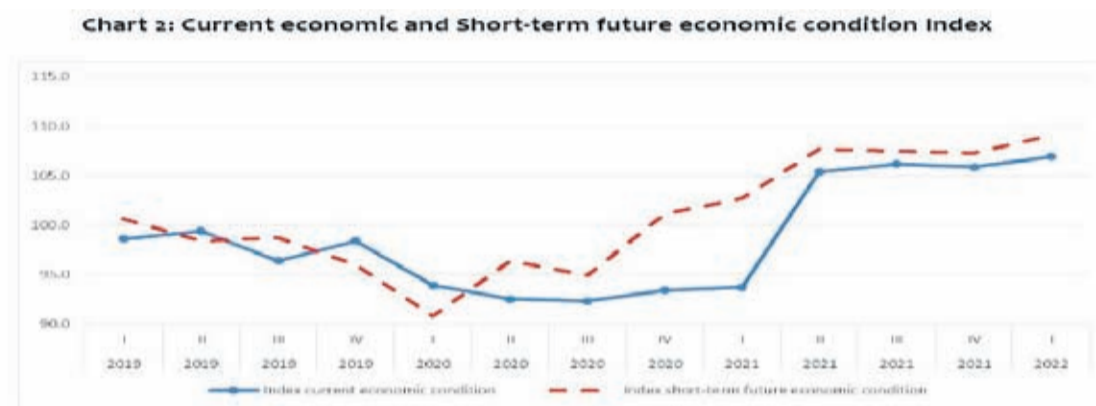
For Directions

# Business sentiments more optimistic in the first quarter of 2022

## Results for the first quarter of 2022



Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba



Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

The Central Bank of Aruba (CBA) concluded its Business Perception Survey (BPS) for the first quarter of 2022. The BPS assesses the economic sentiments of local businesses.

In the first quarter of 2022, the Business Perception Index (BPI), comprising the current and short-term economic conditions, rose further by 1.4 index points to 107.9, reflecting more optimistic business sentiments. The upsurge in business sentiments resulted from increases in both current and short-term future economic conditions (See Chart 1).

The current economic condition index noted an increase of 1.0 index points to 106.9, up from 105.9 in the fourth quarter of 2021. The short-term future economic condition index grew by 1.8 index points, i.e., from 107.3 in the fourth quarter of 2021 to 109.1 in the first quarter of 2022 (See Chart 2). The percentage of respondents expecting positive economic growth in the next 12 months increased by 6.1 percentage points to 50.0 percent.

The complete report of the Business Perception Survey is available on the website of the CBA (<https://www.cbaruba.org/>). □

# Aruba achieves second place in Big Live Nature Quiz

## Fun Online Nature Game for the Dutch Caribbean

On April 22nd, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) hosted its Big Live Nature Quiz for adults on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius, and St. Maarten.

A total of 150+ individuals participated in the online, live, and interactive quiz. After many exciting and thrilling nature question rounds, a team on Curaçao won. Second place went to a team on Aruba and third place to a team on Saba.

The online Big Live Nature Quiz is created to educate citizens about nature in a fun interactive way, to instill pride about the islands' nature, encourage eco-friendly practices, support the parks conservation projects, and to connect people throughout the Dutch Caribbean.

### Yearly Free Quiz for Adults and Kids

This a yearly event for both adults and kids since 2020. For 2022, the kids' edition is currently planned for the beginning of November. Stay tuned for your next chance to learn more about the nature of the Dutch Caribbean.

### Live and Interactive Quiz

Teams could participate in two

ways. Teams were invited to play from home (online) with friends and family or join at one of the broadcast locations (bars). The Quiz was online and live. Therefore, all teams from the Dutch Caribbean islands could participate at the same time as well as interact with each other and the host of the program.

Broadcast locations included Aruba: Chaos Café, Bonaire: Hillside, Saba: Long Haul, St. Eustatius: Ocean View Terrace, St. Maarten: Dinghy Dock Sailors Bar. A big thank you to STINAPA Bonaire, CARMABI on Curaçao, Aruba National Park Foundation, Saba Conservation Foundation, STENAPA on St Eustatius, Nature Foundation Sint Maarten and WeConnect for their support and creating this event.

### Theme: Endangered animals and plants

The quiz had a total of 20 multiple choice trivia questions. The quiz was in English but questions also had Dutch, Papiamentu and Papiamentu subtitles. Questions included species such as sea turtles, sharks and iguanas.

### Winners

First place went to "Vreemde Vo-



gels" on Curaçao. They will receive a sailing trip around their beautiful island. Second place went to "Lucky's Group Therapy" on Aruba and third place to "What a Team" on Saba. Island winners of Bonaire are the Barracudas. For St Maarten: Chicken Dinner (Emily Koch) and St. Eustatius: The Shallows. They received smaller prizes. Congratulations to all!

"It was a lot of fun and I learned much about nature. So nice that all Dutch Caribbean islands could participate live. I am looking forward to the next quiz!". BLNQ Participant from Hillside Bonaire

### Don't Miss the next Big Live Nature Quiz

Check out DCNA's Facebook (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance), Instagram (DCNAnature) or BigLiveNatureQuiz.org for more information and photos of the events. If you have any questions, send an email to [research@DCNA-nature.org](mailto:research@DCNA-nature.org) or call +599-717-5010.

The Big Live Nature Quiz is generously funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and DCNA's activities are supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery. □

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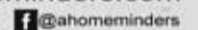
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## EXPLAINER: Recession fears grow. But how high is the risk?

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Inflation is at a 40-year high. Stock prices are sinking. The Federal Reserve is making borrowing much costlier. And the economy actually shrank in the first three months of this year. Is the United States at risk of enduring another recession, just two years after emerging from the last one?

For now, even the more pessimistic economists don't expect a downturn anytime soon. Despite the inflation squeeze, consumers — the primary driver of the economy — are still spending at a healthy pace. Businesses are investing in equipment and software, reflecting a positive outlook. And the job market is more robust than it's been in years, with hiring strong, layoffs way down and many employers desperate for more workers.

Yet several worrisome developments in recent weeks suggest that the risk of recession may be rising. High inflation has proved far more stubborn than many economists had expected. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated global food and energy prices. Extreme lockdowns in China over COVID-19 are worsening supply shortages.

And when Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell spoke at a news conference last



Photo of Andrew Jackson on a \$20 bill is shown, Jan. 28, 2022, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

week, he reinforced the central bank's determination to do whatever it might take to curb inflation, including raising interest rates so high as to weaken the economy. If that happens, the Fed could potentially trigger a recession, perhaps in the second half of next year, economists say. By mid-2023, the Fed's benchmark short-term rate, which affects many consumer and business loans, could reach levels not seen in 15 years. Analysts say the U.S. economy, which has thrived for years on the fuel of ultra-low borrowing costs, might not be able to withstand the impact of much higher rates.

"Recession risks are low now but elevated in 2023 as inflation could force the Fed to hike until it hurts," Ethan Harris, global economist at

Bank of America, said in a note to clients.

The nation's unemployment rate is at a near-half-century low of 3.6%, and employers are posting a record-high number of open jobs. So what might cause an economy with such a healthy labor market to suffer a recession?

Here's what the path to an eventual downturn could look like:

— The Fed's rate hikes are sure to slow spending in areas that require consumers to borrow, with housing the most visible example. The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage has already jumped to 5.25%, the highest level since 2009. A year ago, the average was below 3%. Home sales have fallen in response, and so have mortgage applications, a sign that sales

will keep slowing. A similar trend could occur in other markets, for cars, appliances and furniture, for example.

— Borrowing costs for businesses are rising, as reflected in increased yields on corporate bonds. At some point, those higher rates could weaken business investment. If companies pull back on buying new equipment or expanding capacity, they will also start to slow hiring.

— Falling stock prices may discourage affluent households, who collectively hold the bulk of America's stock wealth, from spending as much on vacation travel, home renovations or new appliances. Broad stock indexes have tumbled for five straight weeks. Falling share prices also tend to diminish the ability of corpo-

rations to expand.

— Rising caution among companies and consumers about spending freely could further slow hiring or even lead to layoffs. If the economy were to lose jobs and the public were to grow more fearful, consumers would pull back further on spending.

— The consequences of high inflation would worsen this scenario. Wage growth, adjusted for inflation, would slow and leave Americans with even less purchasing power. Though a weaker economy would eventually reduce inflation, until then high prices could hinder consumer spending. — Eventually, the slowdown would feed on itself, with layoffs mounting as economic growth slowed, leading consumers to increasingly cut back out of concern that they, too, might lose their jobs.

The clearest sign that a recession might be nearing, economists say, would be a steady rise in job losses and a surge in unemployment. As a rule of thumb, an increase in the unemployment rate of three-tenths of a percentage point, on average over the previous three months, has meant a recession will eventually follow.

Many economists also monitor changes in the interest payments, or yields, on different bonds for a recession signal known as an "inverted yield curve." □

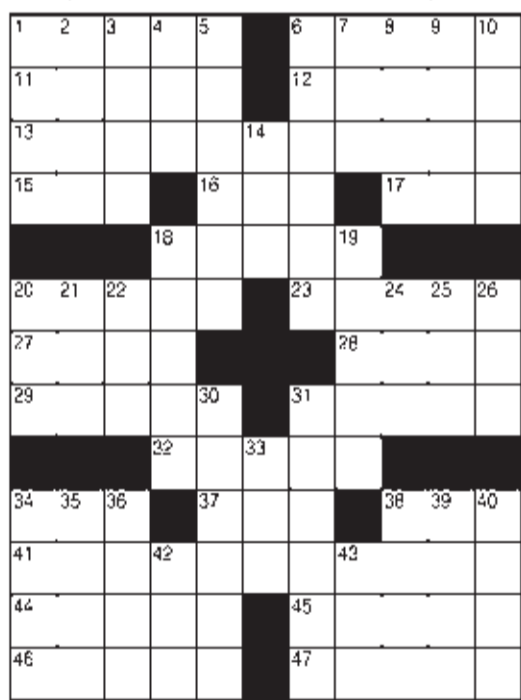
**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**  
 1 River part  
 6 Dark fur  
 11 Shark's home  
 12 Haughty  
 13 History  
 15 Day warmer  
 16 Young fellow  
 17 It's over your head  
 18 Earth's neighbor  
 20 Gags  
 23 Screen dot  
 27 Baseball's Rodriguez  
 28 Binary digit  
 29 Extend, as a subscription  
 31 Car type  
 32 Challenges  
 34 Sit-up targets  
 37 Fish eggs  
 38 Methane, for one  
 41 Song on an album  
 44 Greatly impressed  
 45 Painter Matisse  
 46 Some jingle writers  
 47 Defeated, but barely
- DOWN**  
 1 Periods  
 2 Pale tan  
 3 Free of fat  
 4 Tic-toe link  
 5 Foot joints  
 6 Accelerated  
 7 Rainbow shape  
 8 Derisive calls  
 9 Wait to pounce  
 10 Water whirl  
 14 Sprinted  
 18 Puzzled  
 19 Tag numbers  
 20 Pickle buy  
 21 Bullfight cry  
 22 Writer Follett  
 24 Marked a ballot  
 25 Pitching stat  
 26 Chaney of films  
 30 Rabbits' home  
 31 Be quietly furious  
 33 Piston connector  
 34 Diva's piece  
 35 Flex  
 36 Racket  
 38 Street group  
 39 Lot unit  
 40 Lose traction  
 42 Have debts  
 43 Bright hue



Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR  
 is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-10

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

GQ OTKZLJP YL OQBCJETKA  
 IYJECQPL GI SYV OJDS IYJ ZY  
 LYE YFSQE MQYMPQ. TF`C  
 KYF IYJE HYG FY GQ B  
 CBXTYE. OQDDB VYYZC

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE GREATEST MISTAKE YOU CAN MAKE IN LIFE IS TO BE CONTINUALLY HEARING YOU WILL MAKE ONE. ELBERT HUBBARD

# Coral reefs provide stunning images of a world under assault



Staghorn coral clings to rocks near the Coral City Camera, that livestreams images from along a rock wall, Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at PortMiami in Miami.

Associated Press

By CURT ANDERSON and CODY JACKSON  
 Associated Press

**MIAMI (AP)** — Humans don't know what they're missing under the surface of a busy shipping channel in the "cruise capital of the world." Just below the keels of massive ships, an underwater camera provides a live feed from another world, showing marine life that's trying its best to resist global warming. That camera in Miami's Government Cut is just one of the many ventures of a marine biologist and a musician who've been on a 15-year mission to raise awareness about dying coral reefs by combining science and art to bring undersea life into pop culture.

Their company Coral Morphologic is surfacing stunning images, putting gorgeous closeups of underwater creatures on social media, setting time-lapsed video of swaying, glowing coral to music and projecting it onto buildings, even selling a coral-themed beachwear line.

"We aren't all art. We aren't all science. We aren't all tech. We are an alchemy," said Colin Foord, who defies the looks of a typical scientist, with blue hair so spiky that it seems electrically charged. He and his business partner J.D. McKay sat down with The Associated Press to show off their work.

One of their most popular

projects is the Coral City Camera, which recently passed 2 million views and usually has about 100 viewers online at any given time each day.

"We're going to actually be able to document one year of coral growth, which has never been done before in situ on a coral reef, and that's only possible because we have this technological connection right here at the port of Miami that allows us to have power and internet," Foord said.

The livestream has already revealed that staghorn and other corals can adapt and thrive even in a highly urbanized undersea environment, along with 177 species of fish, dolphins, manatees and other sea life, Foord said.

"We have these very resilient corals growing here. The primary goal of us getting it underwater was to show people there is so much marine life right here in our city," Foord said.

McKay, meanwhile, sounds like a Broadway producer as he describes how he also films the creatures in their Miami lab, growing coral in tanks to get them ready for closeups in glorious color.

"We essentially create a set with one of these aquariums, and then obviously there's actors coral or shrimp or whatever and then we film it, and then I get a vibe, whatever might be happening in the scene,

and then I soundtrack it with some ambient like sounds, something very oceanic," McKay explained.

Their latest production, "Coral City Flourotour," will be shown on the New World Center Wallscape this week as the Aspen Institute hosts a major climate conference in Miami Beach. Foord is speaking on a panel about how the ocean's natural systems can help humans learn to combat impacts of climate change. The talk's title? "The Ocean is a Superhero."

"I think when we can recognize that we're all this one family of life and everything is interconnected, that hopefully we can make meaningful changes now, so that future generations don't have to live in a world of wildfires and melted ice caps and dead oceans," Foord told the AP. Their mission is urgent: After 500 million years on Earth, these species are under assault from climate change. The warming oceans prompt coral bleaching and raise the risk of infectious diseases that can cause mass die-offs in coral, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Stronger storms and changes in water chemistry can destroy reef structures, while altered currents sweep away food and larvae.

"Climate change is the greatest global threat to coral reef ecosystems," NOAA said in a recent report.

That gets at the second part of Coral Morphologic's name. "What does it mean to be morphologic? It really means having to adapt because the environment is always changing," Foord said.

The staghorn, elkhorn and brain coral living in Government Cut provide a real-world example of how coral communities can adapt to such things as rising heat and polluted runoff, even in such an unlikely setting as the port of Miami. □

# Classifieds

## Wordle answer changed to avoid fraught word, NY Times says

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By **DAVID BAUDER**

**AP Media Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The New York Times moved swiftly to change Monday's answer to its daily Wordle puzzle out of fear that it would be seen as some sort of commentary on the debate over abortion rights.

The game, which became a sensation late last year and was bought by The Times in January, gives users six tries to guess a different five-letter word each day.

Yet The Times scrambled when it discovered that Monday's word, which had been entered into Wordle's computer program last year, was "fetus." The timing was particularly fraught given last week's leaked report of a draft U.S. Supreme Court decision that would strike down a 50-year-old ruling governing the ability of women to receive abortions.

The appearance of "fetus" was "entirely unintentional and a coincidence," the



A sign for The New York Times hangs above the entrance to its building, Thursday, May 6, 2021 in New York.

Associated Press

newspaper said in a message to readers on Monday.

"At New York Times Games, we take our role seriously as a place to entertain and escape, and we want Wordle to remain distinct from the news," the message said.

The Times changed Monday's answer to a different word, and a spokesman said that a "vast majority" of users saw that. But some

people who had not refreshed their browsers saw "fetus" instead, spokesman Jordan Cohen said. He would not say whether The Times had received any complaints about "fetus." Wordle was invented by Josh Wardle, a Brooklyn software engineer, as a gift for his partner and took off when he began posting it online. □

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# 'Jeopardy!' savors run of super champions after host stumbles

By **DAVID BAUDER**

AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — As Mattea Roach, Amy Schneider and Matt Amodio can attest, it's cool to be smart again.

"Jeopardy!" is on an unusual run of super champs. In the past seven months, each of those contestants has landed in the television game show's historical list of top five winning streaks. Roach's run of victories ended on her 24th game Friday.

The timing couldn't be better for "Jeopardy!" — and the show's fans know all about timing.

The show had been reeling last summer after it bungled the process of replacing late host Alex Trebek. Mike Richards was fired as both host and executive producer of the show after insensitive statements he had made on a podcast surfaced.

"It has really let people fall in love with 'Jeopardy!' again and forget about what happened to focus on all of these amazing contestants," said Andy Saunders, who runs thejeopardyfan.com website.

Amodio, a doctoral candidate at Yale University, ran off 38 straight wins before he was beaten last Octo-



This combination of two separate photos shows contestants Amy Schneider, left, and Mattea Roach on "Jeopardy!"

Associated Press

ber. He soon gave way to Schneider, the engineering manager from Oakland who was a fixture on TV over the holidays before her streak ended at 40. Roach, a 23-year-old tutor from Toronto, was the show's youngest major champion.

They joined Ken Jennings, whose 74-game streak in 2004 has never seriously been challenged and high-stakes gambler James Holzhauer, who won 32 in

2019, in the "Jeopardy!" top five.

The show, which has aired regularly since 1984, changed its rules in 2003 to allow people to stay on until they lose. Prior to that, winners were capped at five games.

Ask Michael Davies, the show's executive producer, why the sudden run of big winners, and you get a verbal shrug.

"I don't have a simple answer," he said.

The "price" for such long runs can be a string of dull games because the players are so dominant. Yet the winning streaks create strong characters in ways that are unusual for game shows. People tune in to root for or against them like they do for sports teams, said Saunders, who has worked in game show production.

That's reflected in the ratings. The "Jeopardy!" audience is up 400,000 this year

in an era most shows are shrinking, Davies said. The game averaged 9.4 million viewers a night during the third week in April, more than any program that week on prime-time television, the Nielsen company said.

"The people that win are the people who make the most attempts, the ones who are able to unscramble what it is that they're asking faster than anybody else," Davies said.

Schneider and Roach were notable for their impressive breadth of knowledge, and they were rarely wrong. Amodio was particularly adept at harder questions with a big monetary value and he sought them out first, pinning hopes on a "shock and awe" strategy that demoralized opponents.

Since he's been producer, Davies said "Jeopardy!" has been trying to broaden out the subject matter that contestants face.

"We're trying to test excellence," said Davies, who was producer of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" during Regis Philbin's heyday. "We're trying to test people on how much they really know. We don't want it to be for people who know trivia." □

# New 'Doctor Who' star is 'Sex Education' actor Ncuti Gatwa



Ncuti Gatwa poses for photographers upon arrival for the British Academy Television Awards in London, June 6, 2021.

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Ncuti Gatwa will take the mantle from Jodie Whittaker on "Doctor Who," the BBC announced Sunday, ending speculation over the iconic

Time Lord's next regeneration.

"Sometimes talent walks through the door and it's so bright and bold and brilliant, I just stand back in

awe and thank my lucky stars," returning showrunner Russell T Davies said in the broadcaster's release. "Ncuti dazzled us, seized hold of the Doctor and owned those TARDIS keys in seconds."

Gatwa, whose first name is pronounced 'SHOO-tee, currently stars in Netflix's high school comedy-drama "Sex Education" as the effervescent Eric Effiong, who is openly gay but from a highly religious family.

The Rwanda-born, Scotland-raised Gatwa, 29, will be the first Black actor to helm the quintessential British sci-fi show, but he won't be the first Black Doctor — Jo Martin has played "Fugitive Doctor" in several episodes.

Whittaker became the 13th Doctor — and the first woman to play the central galaxy-hopping, extraterrestrial Time Lord who regenerates into new bodies — in 2017, when she took over from Peter Capaldi. Her last episode of "Doctor Who" is expected to air later this year.

The original run of "Doctor Who" spanned 1963 to 1989. Since the show was revived in 2005, the Doctor has been played by Christopher Eccleston, David Tennant and Matt Smith, in addition to Capaldi and Whittaker. Other stars, like Karen Gillan and Billie Piper, have made their names on the show as the Doctor's "companion."

"This role and show means

so much to so many around the world, including myself, and each one of my incredibly talented predecessors has handled that unique responsibility and privilege with the utmost care. I will endeavor my utmost to do the same," the release quoted Gatwa — who described his emotions as "a mix of deeply honored, beyond excited and of course a little bit scared" — as saying.

In addition to seeing the start of Gatwa's tenure, next year also marks Davies' return to "Doctor Who" after more than a decade's absence. "Russell T Davies is almost as iconic as the Doctor himself and being able to work with him is a dream come true," Gatwa said. □

## Shapovalov overcomes code violation for win at Italian Open

By ANDREW DAMPF

**ROME (AP)** — Denis Shapovalov overcame a point penalty and a hostile crowd to beat local hope Lorenzo Sonego 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-3 in the first round of the Italian Open on Monday.

Late in the second set, Shapovalov was given a code violation for unsportsmanlike conduct after hopping over the net to show the chair umpire a mark on his opponent's side of the red clay court — which is not permitted.

The umpire determined that Shapovalov's serve was out, resulting in a double fault and a break point for Sonego. Then with the code violation, Shapovalov lost the game to trail 5-3.

"A lot of things happened in the heat of the moment. I need to be better with my behavior," Shapovalov said. "It was my mistake. I'll know the rule for next time. I definitely won't step over the net."

Even after stepping over the net, Shapovalov wasn't done arguing.

The 13th-seeded Canadian then called the chair umpire onto his side of the court and singled out a fan



Denis Shapovalov reacts after winning a point to Lorenzo Sonego during their match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Monday, May 9, 2022.

Associated Press

who was heckling him.

"I'm not going to kick him out because I didn't see what he was doing," the umpire said. "I saw you talking to him and you incited it a little bit. I understand you're frustrated."

After the match, Shapovalov apologized to the umpire.

Shapovalov reached the

semifinals in Rome two years ago, while Sonego made the last four last year. Sonego said he was penalized by a decision in the first set when the umpire came down to check a mark and made an overrule, awarding the point to Shapovalov when the Italian thought the point should have been replayed.

There was also a questionable overrule in the third set.

"Things like that shouldn't happen," Sonego said. "They should use video replay. That could be a big help for the umpire."

Video review was used for calling lines at last week's Madrid Open. But there is no such system in place in

Rome.

Despite the vociferous fans, Shapovalov said he generally enjoys playing in Rome. "The fans love me here and I love the fans," he said. "Even after the match, there were a lot of people standing, waiting for pictures, stuff like that."

"I'm super excited to play another match — not against an Italian."

Shapovalov will next face Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia, who beat Daniel Evans 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Also, three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka enjoyed his first win in nearly 1 1/2 years by rallying past Reilly Opelka, also a semifinalist last year, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Wawrinka recently returned to the tour after undergoing two foot surgeries last year.

Dominic Thiem, another former top-five player returning from injury, was beaten by Italian veteran Fabio Fognini 6-4, 7-6 (5). Fognini could play fellow Italian Jannik Sinner next — if Sinner gets by Pedro Martinez on Tuesday.

"He's our future star," Fognini said of Sinner. □

## Suns coach: NBA should consider families-only seats at games

By DAVID BRANDT

Phoenix Suns coach Monty Williams said the NBA should consider having a special section in the stands reserved for the families of visiting teams in the wake of Chris Paul's family being harassed during Sunday's playoff game in Dallas.

The incident happened during Game 4 of the Western Conference semifinals between the Dallas Mavericks and Suns.

ESPN reported that members of Paul's family had been harassed by fans and that some in the crowd made physical contact with them. The Mavericks said the fan was ejected.

"It's a hard one, because it's happening more and more," Williams said Monday at Suns practice. "The situations are getting to a place now where I really feel like families, who are there to support their loved

ones, need to be protected a bit more. Whether or not we have to give these people a section, a suite, something has to be done. "Because we can't wait for it to get to a level or two higher, before we do what we need to do. Yesterday was unnecessary."

The Mavericks said after the game that they were aware of the incident between a fan and Paul's family at American Airlines Center. Williams said he didn't know the extent of the harassment in real time because the game was still being played.

"It was unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated," the Mavericks said in a statement. "The Mavericks, along with American Airlines Center, swiftly removed the fan from today's game."

After the game, Paul tweeted: "Wanna fine players

for saying stuff to the fans but the fans can put they hands on our families." He also added an expletive. Paul didn't speak to the media after Monday's practice.

Suns forward Cam Johnson said a similar situation happened in Milwaukee last season during the NBA Finals when his girlfriend was hit in the back of the head and had beer spilled on her. Johnson said he didn't hear about the incident until after the game. "It was kind of a big scene," Johnson said. "It really frustrated me."

Johnson said security in Milwaukee handled the situation and that the fan was kicked out of the game. He said security can only do so much to keep families safe. "A large part of the responsibility has to be on fans," Johnson said. "They just can't act that way. There's



Phoenix Suns head coach Monty Williams, left, greets, Chris Paul (3) at the bench after Paul fouled out in the second half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Dallas Mavericks, Sunday, May 8, 2022, in Dallas.

Associated Press

no other way around it. You've got to address the problem with the real problem. It's that a fan can't go up to someone's mother and harass them." On Sunday, the Mavericks beat the Suns 111-101 and evened the best-of-seven

series 2-2. Paul fouled out of the game in the fourth quarter. Game 5 is Tuesday night in Phoenix.

"I have to stress that I don't think this is indicative of the fans in Dallas," Williams said. "They're cheering for their team." □

# F1's hyped 1st trip to Miami a money-losing success

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

— The Miami Grand Prix was hot, from the party scene to the weather, but it faced nearly impossible expectations.

The celebrity watching was top level, certainly for a motorsports event. There was Paris Hilton, using a portable fan to cool herself as she danced in front of the McLaren garage on race day. Serena and Venus Williams holding hands as they navigated the pre-race grid in summer dresses. Bad Bunny, the Puerto Rican entertainment icon, making a flashy entrance in an all-pink suit while hanging with Sergio Perez, Red Bull's Mexican driver.

There were tons of bells and whistles, too, from food halls, art installations, hammocks, chaise lounges to cabanas and a man-made beach. But did Formula One's debut in this sleek, cosmopolitan city measure up as a good event? That all depends on personal expectations. The expectations were so high, after all.

F1 wants to tap into the rich North American sponsorship market as the series'



Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc of Monaco leads the field at the start of the Formula One Miami Grand Prix auto race at the Miami International Autodrome, Sunday, May 8, 2022, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

popularity has swelled over the last three years. The United States was given two F1 races this season for the first time since 1984 and next year there will be three, with Las Vegas — the glitziest city of them all? — playing host.

Miami received a 10-year contract for its extravaganza at Hard Rock Stadium, where promoters built a 3.36-mile circuit through

the parking lot and then went off the charts building the scene around it. Tickets never went on sale to the general public because of early interest and capacity was capped at 85,000 to create a pleasant — and exclusive — customer experience.

The track weaved around the stadium, under an highway overpass and around a fake marina that

featured 10 yachts and a mini-Monaco backdrop. There were gondolas to ferry fans across the sprawling circuit, and a beach club that featured musical acts throughout the three-day weekend.

Many at this event were hooked on F1 by the Netflix behind-the-scenes docu-series "Drive To Survive." Each episode covers an entire storyline — sometimes multiple races — and it's been credited for exposing the glamorous F1 world to Americans. Netflix and F1 even waited for the series to arrive last week in Miami to announce "DTS" has been renewed for two more seasons.

The racing, alas, was just OK, 57 mostly uneventful laps on a track drivers did not like. Fernando Alonso said drivers complained to governing body FIA that "the tarmac is not F1 standard" and promoters twice had to repave portions of the track before Sunday's race.

The asphalt "almost feels like gravel," said Max Verstappen, the reigning world champion who won for the third time through the first five races of the season. He also said the chicane was suited for a kart race and not an F1 car.

"In the four laps I did on Friday, I almost knocked my-

self out because I hit the first curb and your head just bounced from left to right, like at least five, six times, but really bad," Verstappen said. "It's so slow and I think our cars look way better if it's a bit more of a flowing combination."

The good news is that promoter Tom Garfinkel said before Sunday's race that organizers would listen to all feedback and make any changes required to improve the event, including track alterations.

He also was cognizant of other areas that fell short — hospitality inside the F1 paddock wasn't up to series standards on Friday's opening day; pedestrian bridges across the campus were clogged; shade could be difficult to find — and said it would all be addressed even though the race won't make a profit in its first year.

"The expenses far exceeded our expectations," Garfinkel said. "But it was because we were trying to do everything we could to be first class, to be on brand for what Formula One is and the kind of event we wanted to deliver."

The event still had some of that classic F1 backroom drama with the FIA insisting it will enforce its ban on drivers wearing jewelry while competing. Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton protested by wearing three watches, eight rings and multiple necklaces, but ultimately removed everything but some piercings before getting in his car.

The FIA granted Hamilton a waiver for the next two races so he can make plans to have piercings he can't take out surgically removed. The Briton must have all his piercings removed by the Monaco Grand Prix on May 29 or risk a fine of \$308,000 (250,000 pounds).

Hamilton is having a terrible season by his standards. His spat with FIA has created speculation he will quit F1 and he suggested he might not bend on this issue, saying Friday: "If they stop me, then so be it. We've got a spare driver." □

## MLB plans London games in 2023, 2024 and 2026



Chicago Cubs second baseman Nick Madrigal, left, throws out Los Angeles Dodgers Justin Turner at first after forcing out Trea Turner at second base during the seventh inning in the first baseball game of a doubleheader Saturday, May 7, 2022, in Chicago.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball intends to play regular-season games

in London in 2023, 2024 and 2026. The New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox

split two games at London's Olympic Stadium in June 2019. The St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs were scheduled to play there on June 13-14, 2020, but those games were canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Cardinals and Cubs are the leading candidates to play in London next year. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred and London Mayor Sadiq Khan announced the formation of the MLB London Legacy Group on Monday that will include members from the Greater London Authority and Baseball Softball UK.

MLB plans to hold a Home Run Derby at London's Crystal Palace Park on July 9 this year. □